

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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Shelter Summer Camp

In July, Animal Care & Control and Parks, Recreation, & Community Services teamed up for the first ever Shelter Summer Camp at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter. The partnership proved to be a great success and we look forward to many more projects together. Kudos to Amy Seymour of LCACC and Jennifer Rutkowski of PRCS for putting the camp together and making a wonderful experience for the kids!



Campers use positive training techniques to teach Bleu and Sam (above) how to use agility equipment.

At right, campers make homemade cookies for the dogs. In addition to treats, they decorated litter boxes for cats, made posters for the Shelter, and tie dyed t-shirts for themselves!



Furry Friday Fun



Max (above) found a new home at July's Furry Friday event!

Have you been to Furry Friday yet? If not, you're missing out! Furry Friday is a monthly pet adoption event at the Sterling Community Center. Pets looking for new homes come to the Community Center once a month on Friday evening from 5-7pm. We have had a great turnout of interested adopters and have found new homes for many Shelter animals! Furry Fridays have proven to be a great opportunity for our animals to be seen by people who may not otherwise make the trip to the Shelter in Waterford.

Thanks to everyone at the Sterling Community Center for helping make Furry Fridays a success, and a special thank you to Carrie Randolph for helping us kick off the program.

Join us for the next Furry Friday on **Friday, August 22!**

Adoptions in FY08

Fiscal Year 2008 was busy as always for animal adoptions at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter. From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, **959 animals** were adopted from the facility. Cats top the list with **511 adoptions** of both adult cats and kittens. Dogs & puppies were second with **239 adoptions**. Rabbits and small animals came in at an even **100 adoptions**, while horses, livestock, and other animals made up the remainder.



Nena (left), one of the 511 cats adopted from the Shelter last year, takes a nap in her new dad's lap.

Valuable Volunteers

Are you looking for an opportunity to help animals in our community, and have some fun too? Animal Care & Control has an active volunteer force and we are always looking for new volunteers! Volunteers are essential to helping us fulfill our mission and allow us to do programs and events that we could not do with staff alone.

Volunteers were a critical part of the horse rescue and seizure this past winter, and over 40 new volunteers signed up to work with the horses in the first few weeks that they were here. Volunteers made it possible for us to not only care for the horses, but also to ensure the highest level of care for the

other animals in the Shelter.

There is a volunteer opportunity for just about anyone over the age of 16 with 2 hours a week to spare and a love of animals.

Volunteer jobs include:

- Dog Walkers
- Cat Cuddlers
- Small Animal Friends
- Web Photographers
- Greeters
- Administrative Assistants

In addition, we also have a group of very special volunteers who provide **foster**



homes for animals in need. These foster families give young, injured, or undersocialized animals the care they need before they become available for adoption.

For more information on our volunteer program, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals and click on "Volunteers" on the left hand side!

Employee of the Month

Mark Stacks is July's Employee of the Month! Mark is being recognized for his excellent and unselfish work as an Animal Control Officer.

His efforts in handling his own cases and/or responding to calls for service and still providing support and/or assistance to his co-workers is outstanding. His enthusiasm to pitch-in and help as needed has earned him great respect from his coworkers, especially when volunteering to drop off

summons to court, following up on Notice to Comply's that have been issued, and doing "drive-bys" to check on a dog. Mark is a great asset to his division and to the Department as a whole.

Thank you Mark for all you do!



Congratulations Mark!

What We're Up To...

Cat-a-palooza

June's **Cat-a-palooza** event was a great success with **seven cats** finding new, loving homes. Thank you to everyone who came to visit with our cats at the Government Center, and a special thank you to our new cat adopters!

Cat-a-palooza was so well received that plans are now in the works for a similar **Dog-a-palooza** event in the Fall. Stay tuned to the next issue of Gimme Shelter for details!

The "Dog Days of Summer"

We've all heard the expression, but do you know where it comes from? Webster defines "dog days" as "the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere." But why are they called "dog days"? It's because during late July Sirius, the "dog star" is in conjunction with the sun, and the ancient Romans believed that its heat added to the heat of the sun, creating a

stretch of hot and sultry weather. They named this period of time, from 20 days before the conjunction to 20 days after, "dog days" after the dog star. So now you know!

